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MISSOURI CORPORATION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

seeks sponsors for OPERATION TOMORROW



programs to assure Missouri's
future economic growth through development of
science and technology

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In 1983 the Missouri legislature created the private, not-for-profit Corporation for Science and Technology. The Corporation is governed by an 18-member board of business, labor, education and public representatives appointed by the Governor.

PURPOSE

The exclusive purpose of the Corporation is to contribute to the strengthening of the state's economy by fostering the development of science and technology. The Missouri Corporation for Science and Technology has adopted the theme "Operation Tomorrow" to emphasize its goal of promoting the state's future economic growth by supporting and nurturing scientific research and advanced technology companies.

The Corporation represents Missouri's commitment to the future. In pursuit of its goal, the Corporation advises universities and colleges in the state of the research needs of private industry; it helps attract private and public sector investment for research and development; it assists in the development of science education; and it provides financial assistance to programs of scientific and technological research and development.

PROGRAMS

Four innovation centers authorized by the Missouri legislature are now open for business. The four centers, located in Columbia, Rolla, St. Louis and Kansas City, are designed to create environments of support and assistance for innovators and entrepreneurs involved in various stages of bringing new products or processes to market. The centers will provide technical, managerial, financial and other assistance to new firms, with special emphasis given to the needs of firms in advanced technology areas.

Coordination of the four centers is one of the responsibilities of the Missouri Corporation for Science and Technology. The Corporation oversees the centers' actions and plans and makes recommendations for their future efforts.

The Higher Education Research Assistance Act provides funding for challenge grants to state colleges and universities for research and applied projects likely to stimulate private investment and creation of new jobs in advanced technology areas. State funds are used to match money from private sector sources in funding research projects. Since the first awards were approved in 1983, 38 projects have received nearly \$1 million in state funds and more than \$2.1 million from private sources.

The Missouri Corporation for Science and Technology has taken the lead in encouraging Missouri inventors and small businesses to take

advantage of the federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) assistance program. The SBIR program, established in 1982, requires 12 large federal agencies to set aside a portion of their research and development budgets for use by small businesses. As much as \$500 million in SBIR funds may be available to small businesses by 1987.

To encourage greater participation in the SBIR program by Missouri small businesses, the Corporation sponsors informational conferences throughout the state; it encourages university researchers to assist small businesses in the development of quality proposals; and it maintains an informational system to keep Missouri small businesses up to date on current proposal

solicitations from the 12 federal agencies.

A Technical Idea Evaluation (TIE) program has been established by the Corporation to provide private inventors and businesses an early objective evaluation of their technical idea or innovation. This computerized

evaluation is patterned after one developed by the University of Oregon with \$1 million in funding from the National Science Foundation. If, after evaluation, the idea is considered to have commercial potential, it will be referred to an innovation center with the approval of the inventor.

The Missouri Corporation for Science and Technology also has been a leading proponent of other programs to encourage university/industry cooperative research, to make risk capital available to young Missouri businesses, to provide high technology training programs, and make Missouri citizens aware of the potential impact of science and technology on the Missouri economy.



FUNDING

The state of Missouri has

taken the role of "seeding" the start-up of the Corporation and its innovation centers. It is expected that private support will assume an ever-increasing role for the Corporation and its various support institutions for high technology economic development.

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